

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

*MC Meeting # 38 Minutes
9:00AM-September 14, 2006
Nicholls State University Campus
Plantation Room-Student Union
Thibodaux, LA*

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

A. Management Conference Members Present

Herman Waguespack-American Sugar Cane League
Archie Chaisson-Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District
John Walthers-Coastal Conservation Assoc. Of LA
Chett Chaisson-Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Jason Smith-Jefferson Parish
Syeda Quadri-LA Dept. Of Environmental Quality
Linda Pace-LA Dept. Of Natural Resources
Mike Lyons-LA Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Dr. Jessica Kastler-LUMCON
David Bourgeois-LSU Ag Center
Allyn Rodriguez-National Park Service
Dr. Earl Melancon-Nicholls State University
Al Levron-Terrebonne Parish
Sue Hawes-US Army Corp of Engineers
Dan McQuate-US Coast Guard
Doug Jacobson-US EPA
Rick Hartman-US National Marine Fisheries Service
Lisa Zeringue-USDA/NRCS

Organizations Not Represented:

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Commercial Fisheries
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
LA Dept. Of Agriculture & Forestry
LA Dept. Of Economic Development
LA Dept. Of Education
LA Dept. Of Health & Hospitals
LA Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
Lafourche Parish
LA Assoc. Of Conservation Districts
LA Assoc. Of Levee Boards
Louisiana Farm Bureau
Louisiana Forestry Assoc.
Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.
Louisiana Landowner's Assoc.
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Louisiana Science Teacher's Assoc.
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Plaquemine Parish
South Central Planning & Development Commission

South Louisiana Economic Council
The Nature Conservancy
US Fish & Wildlife Federation
US Geological Survey

BTNEP Staff Present:

Kerry St. Pe'
Sandra Helmuth
Richard DeMay
Susan Testroet-Bergeron
Dean Blanchard
Joni Blanchard
Andrew Barron

B. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the May 31, 2006 meeting

A motion was made and seconded to dispense of the reading of the minutes of the May 31, 2006 meeting. There were no objections and so moved.

9:10 AM-9:25 AM

I. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES-Kerry St. Pé

A. Presentations/Exhibits/Field Trips

Project Wild National Conference
NRCS Fourchon Ridge Planting
New Iberia Rotary Club
NSU Pre-Service Teachers
Outdoor Writer's Assoc.-Lake Charles
Lafourche Lower Conservation District-
Plattenville
One River, Mississippi Performance
Blind River RC & D Swamp Tour
Manning Passing Academy
Timbelier Island Field Trip
"Long Beach Cares" Lecture Series
NSU Dyslexia Camp
COSEE Workshop
LUMCON World Monitoring Day
Taiwanese Students
Fourchon Beach Planting
Patterson Junior High School

NPS Summer Camps (water quality/culture)
K-4 Teacher workshops (NSU, Hammond, Centerville,
Bossier City, Shreveport, Lafayette)
CWWPRA Project Dedication-Grand Isle
Fourchon Ridge Tour w/ UNO Pontchartrain Institute of
Environmental Studies
NPS Summer Camps (pipeline slurry)
Survey of NOAA grant work sites
Plaquemine Lock Camp Day
Bayou Grace
LUMCON Coastal Marine Ecology/Coastal Restoration
Panel
Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo
LA Youth Environmental Summit-Chicot State Park
Grand Isle Beach Planting
"Managing Sediments in the Watershed" Conference
Annual Conference on Water Management
Shrimp & Petroleum Festival

B. Media Interviews

Stephanie Soileau-Voila-coastal issues	KANE Radio-New Iberia
Erica Zontek-Univ. of Michigan-stakeholder's process	HTV-Channel 10
Fox 8 News-John Snell	Peter Henderson-Reuter's
For additional interviews see press clippings	

C. Meetings

LA Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force
Lower Mississippi River Symposium
Bayou Lafourche Joint Legislative Comm.
LACPR/CPRA Strategy Meeting
Governor's Environmental Ed Commission
CWPPRA Outreach Committee
LRA "Louisiana Speaks" Public Meeting
Eagle Expo Planning Meeting
Invasive Species Symposium Site Mtg.
LA Assoc. of Prof. Biologists Symposium
Important Birding Area Meeting
CPRA Integrated Planning Team

"Envisioning The Future" Report Presentation
La Fete d'Ecologie Steering Committee
Oil Spill Prevention Action Plan Team
Children's Museum Wetland Exhibit Planning Meeting
CWPPRA Task Force Meeting
Thibodaux Green Space
Wetland Assimilation Workshop
Lafourche CZM meeting
Fourchon Regional Restoration Initiative Meeting
Atchafalaya Basin Program Recreation/Education Comm.
LPB's "Washing Away" Documentary Premier Screening

D. Projects Initiated:

1. "Design & Production of 2007 Tidal Graph Calendar"-Richard DeMay
2. "Maritime Forest Ridge Project-Estuary Restoration Act"-Richard DeMay
3. "Vegetative Model for Restoration, Conservation and Habitat Enhancement on Beneficial-Use Dredge Sediment"-Richard DeMay
4. "Oil & Produced Water Spill Prevention Measures Tidal Graph Calendar Content"-Dean Blanchard
5. "Production of 10th Annual La Fete d'Ecologie"-Joni Blanchard
6. "Logistical Arrangements for Production of 10th Annual La Fete d'Ecologie"-Joni Blanchard
7. "Promotions & Production of 10th Annual La Fete d'Ecologie"-Joni Blanchard
8. "Continuation of Public Outreach Services for the Mississippi River Water Reintroduction to Bayou Lafourche"-Joni Blanchard

9:25 AM – 9:30 AM

III. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Date Suggested is Thursday, January 18, 2007.

9:30 AM- 12:25 PM

V. Discussion Items

A. "Longest Street in the World" DVD Preview-Jim Fields, Mind's Eye Productions

Jim reminded the MC that this project came to light in 2004 when he was asked to photograph and video tape Paddle Bayou Lafourche that year. The image that stuck most in his mind was that of the littler he saw along the bayou. When he became aware of the Mini Grants program, he thought that would be a great opportunity to tell a short story about why we shouldn't litter the bayou, but after viewing the DVD, the MC will see that it became much more than that.

He stated that this documentary offers a history of Bayou Lafourche, problems that have occurred with the Bayou since it's damming at Donaldsonville at the turn of the century and it's overall effect on the entire estuary. He stated that solutions were also examined that programs such as BTNEP are offering to help solve some of these problems.

Jim hopes to educate the citizens and residents of the bayou. Today the MC viewed the first half of the video, which examines the history and problems.

Earl Melancon asked how long the finished product would be. Jim stated his goal is for it to be one hour. He stated that right now it is 75 minutes. He stated there is a lot of good footage and he is trying to narrow it all down so the video flows.

Susan stated that she hopes to have a premier in November at the National Park Service in Thibodaux.

B. CIAP Project Update-Greg Grandy, LDNR

Greg Grandy reminded the MC that the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program is part of the Energy Bill which was passed last year. It was signed in August prior to the hurricanes so this is not money coming to Louisiana as a result of the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He stated that Louisiana and its coastal parishes will receive \$523 million in OCS revenue for 4 years.

He stated the state will receive 65% of the funds, approximately \$340 million and 19 coastal parishes will receive the other 35%, approximately \$183 million. The funding will begin in fiscal year 2007, which begins October 1, 2006. Application for grants for the money can not be submitted until April or May 2007. In March 2007, the actual dollar amount will be calculated. The funding for 2007 and 2008 will be based on 2006 oil and gas production. The funds for 2009 and 2010 will be based on 2008 oil and gas production.

He stated that no more than 23% of the funds received by the state or parishes in any fiscal year can be used for infrastructure or administrative costs. The state must submit a plan to the Dept. of Interior by July 1, 2007. Greg stated that there is no time to waste in Louisiana. The state is trying to get its plan submitted by October. MMS must approve the plan before they will disperse funds.

Greg stated that LDNR has the lead role in partnering with parishes, which is essential. The plan will have 3 parts. 1) Projects that will be funded by the state only; 2) projects funded by the parishes only ; and 3) projects funded by a combination of state and parish monies. Greg stated that the plan will be a 4-year plan, not 4, 1-year plans.

Greg stated that he received a total of 337 proposals. Including overlaps, there were 253 projects that requested state funding, for a total of \$3.7 billion. With only \$340 million dollars available, difficult decisions had to be made in the screening process. The parishes proposed 54 projects, for parish only funding, with an estimated total of \$183 million.

He said projects likely to be selected will be those that include improved management of Mississippi River sediment delivery; marsh creation; both beneficial use and dedicated dredging; land bridge and land ridge building; barrier shoreline restoration; interior shoreline and coastal forest initiatives.

Rick Hartman asked about those proposals that included projects that have already been started. He asked if MMS would consider those and pay back any costs that would have already been incurred. Greg stated that the legislation states that the CIAP program can compensate costs going back to the day the legislation was signed as long as they meet those 5 uses previously mentioned.

C. K-4 Teacher Workshop Presentation-Susan Testroet-Bergeron

Susan informed the MC that she and Sandra Helmuth went around the state educating teachers about coastal restoration and landloss. There were several partners involved with this project, she stated. They included the Gulf of Mexico Program, who provided initial funding, and LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries, who provided funding for stipends for the teachers; and CWPPRA who provided educational materials. There were 9 workshops over a month and a half time period. She stated that the target audience was K-4 teachers.

She showed the MC the new Estuary Curriculum Guide that was developed by Dr. Pam Blanchard from LSU.

Teachers can download the entire guide from the BTNEP website.

She also showed the Wildplants of Our Wetlands curriculum guide that was developed by Allyn Rodriguez of the National Park Service, through the BTNEP Mini Grants Program.

Susan thanked Earl Melancon, for the use of his lab on the NSU Campus; the Education Region Service Centers for hosting several of the workshops; and Sandra Helmuth, for helping out; and Shelly Sparks for getting things ready to go.

D. LACPR Update-Bruce Baird, US Army Corp of Engineers

Bruce stated that the LACPR is also known as the Cat 5 study. It is the US Army Corps Engineers attempt to answer a congressional mandate to provide a report to Congress on measures to protect south Louisiana from Category 5 type storms like Katrina.

Bruce stated that both the federal and state government have been given the assignment to come up with a plan. So, he said, the Corp and LDNR are working together to make sure both plans coincide with one another. Each is on a separate but parallel track.

Bruce stated that Congress asked the Corp to design a flood control, coastal restoration and hurricane protection measures, each having equal importance. It is a \$20 million study, with a lot of expensive hydrologic modeling of hurricane surges and what can be expected from various type storms. The levees will be designed with this information in mind.

Bruce stated that one difference between the federal and state effort is that the Corps has been directed to include a large coastal restoration component. These projects have to provide storm surge protection.

He stated that the first draft was submitted to Congress but the Corp was told that was not what Congress was looking for. A second draft will be ready in February. Extensive review will take place with this draft. Internal review will take place from the other Corp District offices, and then external review will take place from universities and National Academy of Sciences. In May, public comments will be gathered. The final report will go out in October 2007 for another public review. Then the Final Final Report will go to Congress in December 2007.

Bruce stated that the Corp is looking at the model to do 2 things; 1) help the Corp to rank coastal restoration projects and how they would help with storm surge; 2) to prove that it does work.

E. CPRA Integrated Planning Team Update-Jean Cowan, LDNR

Jean began by reiterating the relationship DNR has with the Corp in this planning process. She stated there is very close coordination to be sure that in the end the state and feds are on the same page. Jean stated that the Louisiana Recovery Authority has held a series of stakeholder workshops so that the protection and restoration planning that is going on is actually what the state has in their plan.

Jean stated that the state was asked to look at an integrated plan for coastal protection and restoration with objectives to do both. The LRA will take this plan to guide them with future planning of roads and transportation.

The plan is looking at hurricane protection and restoration for both short-term and long-term scales. It incorporates structural, management and institutional components of both hurricane protection and restoration.

Jean then explained the plan that will have 3 volumes:

- 1) Master Plan Framework-background and history of the problem, planning and program principles and objections,

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decision processes;

- 2) Vision-description of the individual risks;
- 3) 5-year implementation action plan.

Jean then explained the different alternatives in the plan. She stated the plan formulation and maps are on the website.

V. New Business

Rick Hartman - CWPPRA Technical Committee update

Rick stated that the CWPPRA Technical committee met yesterday and approved 4 projects where 2 of them are in the BTES. One was a marsh creation/terracing project south of Montegut, the other was a shoreline restoration/marsh creation project along the beach front west of Belle Pass.

He then gave updates on various other projects and CWPPRA's budget.

Pipeline Sediment Delivery Resolution Final Approval

Andrew stated that this resolution was sent out via email for comments. He stated it is brought up again today so the MC could view the comments and make sure he incorporated those comments correctly.

He reviewed those comments then asked the MC for its support of this resolution. Kerry stated that approval had already been given but the comments needed to be reviewed.

VI. Adjourn 1:13pm